



MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health Department advising of ground beef recall

The Kane County Health Department is advising the public that a Nebraska firm is recalling approximately 531,707 pounds of ground beef components that may be contaminated with E. coli O157:H7, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service announced today

The products were distributed to several states nationwide, including Illinois. An investigation has shown that there is an association between the ground beef products and 35 illnesses reported in Michigan (17) and Ohio (18). The illnesses were linked through the epidemiological investigation and by their PFGE pattern, or DNA fingerprint, found in PulseNet, a database maintained by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Also as a result of the investigation, on June 25 FSIS announced a recall of ground beef products sold at Kroger retail establishments in Michigan and Central and Northwestern Ohio Kroger retail establishments.

“Although no illnesses have been found in Illinois, if consumers are concerned, they should contact their local store to learn if any ground beef products they have purchased are included in the recall,” Paul Kuehnert, Health Department Executive Director, said.

E. coli O157:H7 is a potentially deadly bacterium that can cause bloody diarrhea, dehydration, and in the most severe cases, kidney failure. The very young, seniors and persons with weak immune systems are the most susceptible to foodborne illness. Anyone with signs or symptoms of foodborne illness should consult a medical professional.

Consumers with questions about the recall should contact company Vice President of Administration James Timmerman at 402-733-0456. Media with questions about the recall should contact company representative William Lamson at (402) 397-7300. Information also is available by visiting the Recall link on the Health Department's Web site at www.kanehealth.com or by visiting the USDA's Web site at www.usda.gov.

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